

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 QUITO 01126 202002Z

20

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 EB-11 TRSE-00 COME-00 FEA-02 SCI-06

INT-08 AGR-20 AID-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 /168 W

----- 106897

R 201830Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0057

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 1126

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, EC

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ LARA SPEAKS ON SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF
MILITARY REGIME

1. SUMMARY: IN DETAILED SPEECH DELIVERED FEBRUARY 15, SECOND
ANNIVERSARY OF PRESENT ECUADOREAN REGIME, GOE PRESIDENT
GENERAL GUILLERMO RODRIGUEZ LARA REVIEWED ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF
HIS GOVERNMENT THUS FAR AND SET GOALS FOR THE COMING YEAR.
IN TONE CONFIDENTLY SCORNFUL OF CIVILIAN REGIMES WHICH HAD
PRECEDED MILITARY GOVERNMENT, HE REAFFIRMED DETERMINATION OF
ECUADOREAN MILITARY TO INTENSIFY ITS ROLE IN THE AFFAIRS OF
THE NATION AND HIS GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO CONTINUE TO
TACKLE THE PRESSING PRACTICAL DOMESTIC PROBLEMS FACING THE
COUNTRY. HE SAID INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IF THE
"CATEGORICAL IMPERATIVE" OF THE MOMENT. RODRIGUEZ SET NO
TIMETABLE FOR RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE THROUGH ELECTIONS OR
OTHERWISE AND WAS CAREFUL TO AVOID GIVING ANY IMPRESSION OF
COMPLACENCY BECAUSE OF DRAMATIC GROWTH IN GOE OIL
REVENUES. END SUMMARY

2. IN LENGTHY AND DETAILED SPEECH DELIVERED ON SECOND
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 QUITO 01126 202002Z

ANNIVERSARY OF MILITARY REGIME, GOE PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ
REVIEWED ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF HIS GOVERNMENT THUS FAR AND

LOOKED FORWARD TO THE COMING YEAR. STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE, COVERING SOME THIRTY-TWO NEWSPAPER COLUMNS, REFLECTS THROUGHOUT THE PRAGMATIC AND SOBER PERSONAL STYLE OF THE ECUADOREAN CHIEF OF STATE.

3. INITIAL SECTIONS OF SPEECH ARE DEVOTED TO RODRIGUEZ' GENERAL POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY. HE DISPLAYED HIS CHARACTERISTIC SCORN FOR THE CIVILIAN REGIME WHICH PRECEDED HIM AND, WITHOUT NAMING NAMES, RAINED CONTEMPT ON THOSE POLITICIANS WHO ARE NOSTALGIC FOR "THE DISORDER CAUSED BY OBSOLETE LEGAL INSTITUTIONS." IN SOMEWHAT DEFENSIVE TONE, RODRIGUEZ MAINTAINED THAT PRESENT GOE WAS NOT A DICTATORSHIP AND, IN FACT, SUBJECTED ITSELF TO CONSTITUTIONAL NORMS.

4. IN HIS INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, RODRIGUEZ ALSO GAVE PETROLEUM ITS DUE AS A FACTOR IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, REFERRING TO THE DISCOVERY OF OIL AS A "MIRACLE" AND ACKNOWLEDGING THIS RESOURCE AS A "POWERFUL INSTRUMENT IN THE INTERNATIONAL EQUILIBRIUM." HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT OIL BROUGHT WITH IT NEW RESPONSIBILITIES AND THAT HIS GOVERNMENT'S POLICY WOULD BE TO BALANCE THE BUDGET, PLOW GROWING NATIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES INTO TRULY PRODUCTIVE ENTERPRISES AND INSURE AGAINST THE DAY WHEN ECUADOR'S OIL DEPOSITS HAVE BEEN EXHAUSTED. IN WHAT WAS IN PART UNDOUBTEDLY AN EXHORTATION TO HIS OWN BUREAUCRACY, RODRIGUEZ REPEATEDLY STRESSED IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHED TO KEEPING STRICTLY ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURES DOWN WHILE RAISING PROPORTION OF GOVERNMENT OUTLAYS FOR WHAT HE TERMED "REPRODUCTIVE INVESTMENTS."

5. RODRIGUEZ THEN REVIEWED GOVERNMENTAL ENDEAVORS, DEPARTMENT BY DEPARTMENT, BEGINNING WITH AGRICULTURE AND ENDING WITH MILITARY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS. UNMISTAKABLE EMPHASIS WAS PLACED ON DOMESTIC PROBLEMS, WITH AGRICULTURE AND EDUCATION HEADING THE LIST.

6. RODRIGUEZ CHARACTERIZED INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AS THE "CATEGORICAL IMPERATIVE" OF THE MOMENT.
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 QUITO 01126 202002Z

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK, HE SAID, ARE ECUADOR'S MOST IMPORTANT RENEWABLE RESOURCES AND THE NATION'S MEANS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION MUST BE BROUGHT INTO THE TWENTIETH CENTURY. ALMOST PLAINATIVELY, RODRIGUEZ ADMITTED THAT AGRICULTURAL MODERNIZATION AND LAND REFORM HAD PROVEN TO BE ONE OF ECUADOR'S MOST INTRACTABLE PROBLEMS DURING PAST HALF-CENTURY. FEUDALISTIC PATTERNS OF LAND OWNERSHIP AND EXPLOITATION PERSISTED AND PRIVILEGED LANDOWNERS CONTINUED TO RESIST LAND REFORM AND AGRICULTURAL MODERNIZATION. HE TERMED CURRENT

ATTACKS BY LANDOWNER GROUPS ON OCTOBER 1973 LAND REFORM DECREE "INCOMPREHENSIBLE" AND PLEDGED, ON HIS MILITARY HONOR, THAT IT WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED WITH "IRREVOCABLE DECISIVENESS."

7. RODRIGUEZ THEN DEALT WITH INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, NATIONAL EDUCATION, PUBLIC HEALTH, PUBLIC WORKS, LABOR AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND NATURAL RESOURCES IN THAT ORDER. ON LATTER HE CLAIMED THAT NEW GOE HYDROCARBONS LAW HAD BEEN ONW OF THE GOE'S MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS. IN ENSUING DEFENSE SECTION, RODRIGUEZ EMPHASIZED INTENTION OF MILITARY TO STRENGTHEN ITS ROLE IN ALL ASPECTS OF NATIONAL LIFE IN WHICH IT IS ENGAGED, FROM CIVIC ACTION AND RUNNING AIRLINES TO PLAYING AN ACTIVE PART IN THE DEVELOPMENT

OF THE NATION'S SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. HE AVOIDED VIRTUALLY ANY MENTION OF TRADITIONAL MILITARY ACTIVITIES.

8. ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, RODRIGUEZ POINTED PROUDLY TO GROWING GOE STATURE IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS AND, IN THINLY-VEILED REFERENCE TO US NOTED THAT ECUADOR HAD DEFENDED ITS SOVEREIGN RIGHTS AND RESISTED ECONOMIC PRESSURES DESPTIE THE "ANGER" OF POWERFUL COUNTRIES. HE STRESSED THE URGENT NEED FOR THE SUPERPOWERS TO CHANGE THEIR POINT OF VIEW REGARDING THEIR ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL POWER.

9. COMMENT: RODRIGUEZ' SPEECH IS STRIKING FOR ITS PRIORITY ON DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENT AND MINIMUM OF POLEMIC, BOTH AGAINST GOE'S DOMESTIC ENEMIES AND ITS TRADITIONAL
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 QUITO 01126 202002Z

FOREIGN WHIPPING BOYS. THE MEASURED TONE OF HIS REMARKS, THE EMPHASIS ON EXHAUSTIVE DETAIL AND THE PROBLEM-SOLVING ORIENTATION OF HIS SPEECH REFLECT A CONSIDERABLE MATURING OF THE PRESENT GOE MILITARY REGIME, A GENUINE CONFIDENCE IN THE LEADERSHIP IT HAS OFFERED ITS NATION THUS FAR AND A CONVICTION THAT ITS MANDATE IS LIKELY TO ENDURE WELL INTO THE FUTURE.

10. SPEECH CONTAINBFB NO SURPRISES ON SUBJECTS OF FISH AND PETROLEUM POLICY AND SECTIONS ON DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS AVOIDED EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO MANY OF THE CONTROVERSIAL THEMES WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN RAISED. GOE'S TWO HUNDRED MILE THESIS, CORNERSTONE OF FOREIGN POLICY OF SO MAY PRECEDING REGIMES, WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED, NOR WAS RIVALRY WITH PERU. MODERATE TONE OF FOREIGN POLICY SECTION MUST AT LEAST IN PART BE ATTRIBUTED TO GOE DESIRE TO BETTER ITS RELATIONS WITH UNITED STATES.

BREWSTER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, SPEECHES, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974QUITO01126
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740221/aaaaatno.tel
Line Count: 170
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ LARA SPEAKS ON SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF MILITARY REGIME
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, EC, (LARA, RODRIGUEZ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005